

May 27, 2004

Scott Whitney, Compliance Officer
Drinking Water Program
Department of Human Services
State House Station #11
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

RE: DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Request for Consultation Regarding
The Transport of Bulk Water
With Pure Mountain Spring
Docket No: 2004-215

Dear Mr. Whitney,

On March 26, 2004, you requested Public Utilities Commission (PUC) review of the application of Pure Mountain Spring for authorization, pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §2660- A(3), to transport water for commercial purposes. That statute requires that your office consult with the PUC and other agencies before authorizing commercial transport of water beyond the municipality in which it occurs naturally. This letter constitutes the PUC's assessment of whether Pure Mountain Spring's proposal would "constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare" in regard to its effect on any public water utility.

Our Staff reviewed the Pure Mountain Spring's proposal to determine whether the proposed withdrawal of water would have any adverse effect on the public water utilities in the area. In spite of the extra pumpage, the reports submitted by Pure Mountain Spring indicate that it should not impact the Fryeburg water supply. We conclude that the proposal will not constitute a threat provided that your authorization is contingent upon the continued existence of an agreement between the Fryeburg Water Company and Pure Mountain Spring.

It is our opinion that transport of water from Pure Mountain Spring's Fryeburg source will not constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. The public utility component of the waiver process should be reviewed, to ensure circumstances have not changed; each time the authorization is renewed.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have questions regarding the public water utility impact of the Pure Mountain Spring application.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

cc: Stephani Morancie